

HOMELESS EDUCATION LIAISONS IN VERMONT

HISTORY:

The **McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act** was amended under the **No Child Left Behind Act of 2001**. The amendments prohibited the segregation of homeless students, required transportation to and from the school of origin and immediate enrollment, and a “best interest” determination of school enrollment. In addition, every supervisory union/school district in Vermont is required to designate a **Homeless Education Liaison** on the Consolidated Federal Program application submitted to the Vermont Department of Education on July 1st.

Homeless Education Liaisons address problems that homeless children and youth face in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. Liaisons ensure that each homeless student has equal access to the same public education services as other students. **And, most importantly, Liaisons make sure that, during a time of crisis for students, educational continuity and support are maintained.**

WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS A HOMELESS EDUCATION LIAISON?

The Homeless Education Liaison is one of the most important contacts between homeless children/youth and school personnel, as well as service providers in the community. The Liaison facilitates enrollment and coordinates services to ensure that students have access to and succeed in educational programs. To accomplish these goals, a Liaison must ensure that:

- 🍎 Homeless children/youth are **identified** by school personnel and community agencies
- 🍎 Homeless students **enroll** in and succeed in school
- 🍎 Homeless students receive **educational services** for which they are eligible, including school meals, Title I, Head Start, Even Start, preschool programs, and appropriate health and social services
- 🍎 Parents/guardians/youth are informed of **enrollment options** and educational services, and are involved in the education of their children
- 🍎 Parents/guardians/youth are informed about and have access to **transportation services**, including transportation to the school of origin
- 🍎 **Enrollment disputes** are resolved
- 🍎 The **school and community are informed** about the rights of homeless children/youth

WHAT SUPPORT DO I HAVE IN MY ROLE AS HOMELESS EDUCATION LIAISON?

It is important that you know the McKinney Vento law, have information on how to implement the law, and have access to technical assistance along the way. The Vermont Department of Education has developed these resources for you:

- 🍎 **McKinney Vento Information Packet (Red Packet)**, containing all the information you need regarding the McKinney Vento law. Contact Lisa Champney, Administrative Assistant, Education for Homeless Children and Youth, Vermont DOE (802) 828-6574
- 🍎 **Vermont Homeless Children and Youth Project**, a Department of education statewide technical assistance network utilizing staff from the Vermont Educational Surrogate Parent Program. Diane Janukajtis, Director, (802) 828-5108
- 🍎 **Education for Homeless Children and Youth Web site** at:
http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_homeless.html